



**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
OFFICE FOR COMMUNICATIONS**

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**For Immediate Release**  
April 7, 2021

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**ARCHBISHOP PÉREZ TO CELEBRATE ANNUAL MASS  
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez** will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the annual Archdiocesan Mass for Persons with Disabilities. It is offered for the intention of persons with disabilities, the deaf community, their families, friends, and caregivers.

**Sunday, April 25, 2021  
3:00 p.m.**

**Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul  
18th Street & Benjamin Franklin Parkway  
Philadelphia, PA 19103**

This celebration of the Eucharist seeks to embody the words of Pope Francis, “I pray that each person may feel God’s paternal gaze which affirms their full dignity and the unconditional value of their life.” Saint Christopher Parish Schola will be present to provide the liturgical music.

At the conclusion of Mass, Archbishop Pérez will present the One Body in Christ Award to three individuals and their ministries for exemplary work in promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life of the Church.

**Jean Calvarese-Donovan & Divine Providence Village Team** serve generously and compassionately to provide COVID-19 vaccines to their communities and the broader IDD/Autism communities throughout the region.

**Dr. Steve McWilliams & Villanova University’s VUnited Team** create innovative inclusive college programming to enhance the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities and for launching VUnited Scholars.

**Principal Frank Tosti & the Schuller Family** continue to promote inclusive Catholic School Education that fosters belonging so that all experience that we are "One Body in Christ."

The Mass is sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf Apostolate. All are welcome to attend and should RSVP by visiting [www.opdarchphilly.org](http://www.opdarchphilly.org). Guests are asked to arrive by 2:45 p.m. and abide by social distancing and mask guidelines. Accessible on-site parking is available.

A livestream link will be available on the Archdiocesan website <https://vimeo.com/event/17522> and Archbishop Pérez's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ArchbishopPerez/](http://www.facebook.com/ArchbishopPerez/).

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### **Editor's Note:**

#### **About the Archdiocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf Apostolate**

[The Office for Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf Apostolate](http://www.opdarchphilly.org) fosters the full inclusion of people with disabilities into the life of the Church and serves as a pastoral resource for parishes and individuals in providing access and welcome to persons with disabilities. The Deaf Apostolate provides Masses and Sacraments in American Sign Language, pastoral care and religious education to the Catholic community who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. Please visit <http://opdarchphilly.org/>.

#### **About Catholic Social Services' Developmental Programs**

The [Developmental Programs](https://dgdpcommunities.org/) Division of Catholic Social Services offers persons with intellectual disabilities a continuum of care designed to enhance their quality of life by promoting individuality, empowering personal choice, promoting dignity and respect, and nourishing a family spirit rooted in Christian faith and values. The division manages residential and community-based programs for adults and children who have intellectual disabilities or are developmentally delayed. Please visit <https://dgdpcommunities.org/>.

#### **About the Archdiocesan Schools of Special Education**

The mission of the [Archdiocesan Schools for Special Education](https://aop Catholicschools.org/special-education/) is to facilitate the complete development of students with physical and intellectual disabilities to their fullest potential: spiritually, intellectually, vocationally, physically and emotionally. Please visit <https://aop Catholicschools.org/special-education/>.

Livestream link for viewing: <https://vimeo.com/event/17522>

Embed code

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